



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
on
March 28, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

by
Sam Callejo
Vice President for Administration, University of Hawai'i System

HB 2429, HD2, SD1 – RELATING TO RECREATION

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The University supports the intent of HB 2429, HD2, SD1, which, as it is currently written, requires the University of Hawaii, with the assistance of other public and private sector entities involved in the development of West Oahu, to study the feasibility of constructing a new recreational stadium in West Oahu and report back to the 2009 legislature.

We are willing to work with the many stakeholders involved, such as the federal, state and county agencies, as well as the private sector in conducting a study. Due to the amount of work required in such a short time frame we kindly request that an appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 be inserted into section 3, in order to meet the deadline of the start of the 2009 legislative session.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

testimony

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 9:27 PM
To: testimony
Subject: HB 2429 HD2 SD1 - RELATING TO RECREATION - Friday, March 28, 2008

SUBMITTED BY:

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Roslyn Baker, Chair
Sen. Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Notice of Decision-Making
9:45 am
Friday, March 28, 2008
Conference Room 211

HB 2429 HD2 SD1 - RELATING TO RECREATION

**STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2429 HD2 SD1 - STRONGLY SUPPORT SUPPORT HB 2429
HD2**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:

My name is Shannon Wood, a Kailua, O`ahu resident, speaking only as an individual on my own behalf and not representing any group or organization.

As indicated in my earlier testimony as this bill went through the *House* and was sent to the *Senate Economic Development & Taxation* and *Education Committees*, I am in strong support of effectuating the transfer of *Aloha Stadium* from the *Department of Accounting and General Services* to the *University of Hawai`i at Manoa*.

As long as *Aloha Stadium* is part of the *DAGS* and under the operational management of the *Stadium Authority*, the *University of Hawai`i Department of Athletics* will be standing outside shaking a tin cup and begging for a piece of the action in concession sales & parking from football games held there. It will never receive any of the revenues from other activities held there which are not directly connected to *UH's* use.

In transferring *Aloha Stadium's* operations to the *University of Hawai`i's* proposed *Stadium Corporation*, the latter would also get the net revenues from all other events scheduled there which could benefit all ten campuses. This will help further the goal of decreasing direct financial support from state taxes.

However, the most important part of the transfer would be to allow the **Stadium Corporation** to enter into agreements with major sponsors for naming rights by which major repairs & improvements could be made. This could not be done under the present system.

It is unclear as to why the current vendors of the **Swap Meet** are so upset at even looking at a transfer since it will make no difference to them who manages *Aloha Stadium*, but clearly the two **Senate Committees** listened to them rather than to the people who have a huge financial stake in the outcome of this bill.

Turning now to **SD1**, the proposal to look at the possibility of moving *Aloha Stadium* to someplace in West O`ahu is, quite frankly, not even worth considering. Why do you want to waste time and money?

First, any new stadium will cost close to half a **BILLION** dollars in today's money. Furthermore, no one is even talking about building a replacement stadium for at least another 25 - 30 years. We have so many critical issues before us which require our attention that spending that kind of money to replace an existing facility simply does not compute.

Second, major repairs and upgrades would cost significantly less and could be completed within five years if a major corporate partner were brought in. However, the present legal structure does not allow this. Passing legislation to create a **Stadium Corporation** can include the language to permit private capital funding.

Third, no matter how many people live on O`ahu, the population in West O`ahu will never be more than 20 -25% of the total population. Most people will NOT live anywhere near West O`ahu.

Fourth, the current location is convenient to residents all across O`ahu. There is ready access to H1, H2 & H3 freeways as well as surface roads. Furthermore, during the **Stadium Authority's** March, 2008, meeting, consultants hired by the *City & County of Honolulu* made a presentation on the **Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project's** route alignment including *Aloha Stadium*.

Fifth, the *University of Hawai`i at Manoa* will always be the main campus in the **UH System** and its **Division 1-A** football team will remain there along with the other 18 intercollegiate sports which comprise the *Department of Athletics*. There is no way that the **UH System** will support two **Division 1-A** football teams on the same island. That means the campus will be at least 30 miles away from its football stadium. At best, the *West O`ahu* campus will be akin to the *UH-Hilo* campus - a **Division II** school.

Sixth and perhaps the most important, the contents of **SD1** have not been presented to the public for examination & discussion but were inserted into the bill with no prior notice. There was not even an existing bill which was inserted into **HB 2429 HD2**. As far as I've been able to determine, no one from the **UH System**, including the **Athletic Department** and the *Manoa Chancellor's* office, was consulted prior to the release of this draft. How does this square with the legislative and public decisions made several years to grant the *University of Hawai`i* a significant degree of autonomy?

Unfortunately, there will be no opportunity for public comment and debate on **SD1** given the rules of this **Committee** and the those of the **Conference Committees** since I am sure that's where **HB 2429 HD2 SD?** will wind up. Writing these comments which only a few people may see is a far cry from a public forum.

In closing, the contents of **SD1** might merit being placed in a resolution, but they certainly should

not be considered worthy of being substituted for the original version. I urge that you re-think what the two *subject matter* committees have done.